Amendments to the Claims:

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough or double brackets, are expressed in the listing.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method of mechanically embossing an article comprising pressing a solidified slurry into the article, the solidified slurry being ~~resoluble~~ recyclable and reusable.

Claims 19 and 20 (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the solidified slurry is pressed into the article by a roll.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the roll has a textured surface.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the solidified slurry is pressed into the article by a belt or plate.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the solidified slurry is applied by screen printing onto the article.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the slurry comprises a filler and a binder.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the binder is biodegradable.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the slurry is applied to the article in registration with a printed pattern on the article.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the slurry is reclaimed after being removed from the article.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the article is a surface covering comprising an expandable foam layer and at least one foaming modifier selected from the group consisting of an inhibitor and an activator disposed as a pattern proximate the foam layer, and wherein the surface covering is expanded and chemically embossed during the solidifying step.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the article is chemically embossed before the slurry is applied to the article.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, comprising[[:]] applying the slurry in a pattern onto a backing,[[;]] solidifying the applied slurry to create an embossing tool, [[;]] and [[using]] pressing the embossing tool into the article to mechanically emboss the article.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the backing is selected from the group consisting of a belt, a drum, a roll, a plate and combinations thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the slurry is applied by screen printing onto the backing.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the slurry comprises a filler and a binder.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the binder is biodegradable.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the slurry is applied in register with a printed pattern on the article.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further including removing the solidified slurry after embossing the article.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the slurry is reclaimed after being removed from the article.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the article is chemically embossed.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further including imparting a differential gloss on the article.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, comprising:

printing the slurry onto a surface the article;

solidifying the slurry residing on the article;

pressing the solidified slurry into the article; and

then removing the solidified slurry.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the article is a surface covering.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the article is a surface covering.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the article is a surface covering.

46. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the solidified slurry is in direct contact with the article when it is pressed into the article.

47. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the portion of the article into which the solidified slurry is pressed is gelled prior to the solidified slurry being pressed.

48. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the portion of the article into which the solidified slurry is pressed is cured prior to the solidified slurry being pressed.

49. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the backing, onto which the solidified slurry is applied, has a textured surface.

50. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the slurry is applied in a pattern onto the backing is such a manner that portions of the backing are free of solidified slurry.

51. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the surface covering is a floor covering.

52. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the surface covering is a floor covering.